

Data Spotlight

National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services

May 5, 2011

One Quarter of Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities Provide Spanish-Speaking Staff Counselors

In 2009, an estimated 3.6 million Hispanics aged 12 or older either abused or were dependent on alcohol or an illegal drug in the past year.¹ Providing these individuals with an effective therapeutic intervention requires not only understanding the substance(s) being abused but also providing counseling in a culturally sensitive and competent manner.² Culturally competent delivery of substance abuse treatment depends partly on the linguistic competence of providers. Nevertheless, according to the 2009 National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS), only 3,666 substance abuse treatment facilities (27 percent of all surveyed facilities) had staff counselors who provided treatment services in Spanish. Availability of these services varied by region of the United States, ranging from more than one third (37 percent) of facilities located in the West to 14 percent of facilities located in the Midwest (Figure 1). Larger facilities were more likely than smaller facilities to have staff counselors who provided services in Spanish (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities That Provide Services through Spanish-Speaking Staff Counselors, by Region: 2009

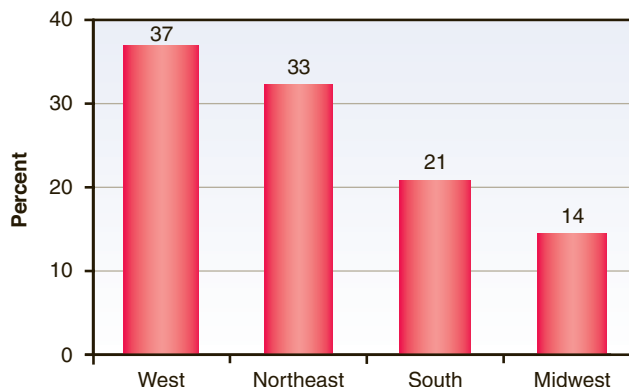
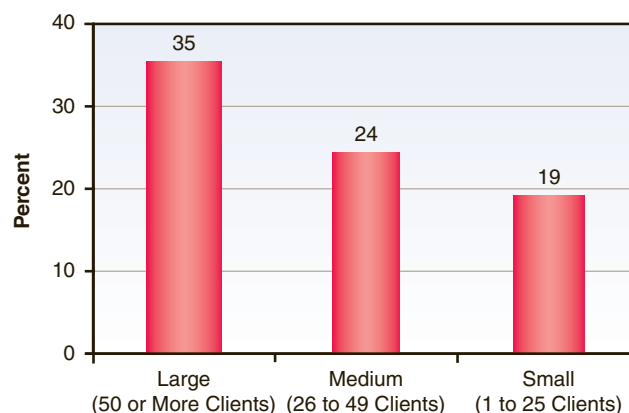


Figure 2. Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities That Provide Services through Spanish-Speaking Staff Counselors, by Facility Size: 2009



¹ Office of Applied Studies. (2010). NSDUH Table 5.4A—Substance dependence or abuse in the past year among persons aged 12 or older, by demographic characteristics: Numbers in thousands, 2008 and 2009. In Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed tables*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. [Available at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k9NSDUH/tabs/Sect5peTabs1to56.htm#Tab5.4A>]

² Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. (2005). *Substance abuse treatment for persons with co-occurring disorders* (Treatment Improvement Protocol [TIP] Series 42). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Source: 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS). N-SSATS is an annual survey of all substance abuse treatment facilities in the United States, both public and private, that are known to SAMHSA. N-SSATS is one component of the Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS), an integrated data system maintained by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA. Information and data for this report are based on data reported to N-SSATS for the survey reference date March 31, 2009.

